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Currents

The Winona State University Magazine

FALL 2015



SHINE

Bright

LIKE A WARRIOR

Inside: Homecoming 2015



A Look Back @ Homecoming 2014



Contents: Fall 2015

Shine Bright Like a Warrior!



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Demystifying Disease

Dr. Osvaldo Martinez, WSU Assistant Professor of Biology, and his students conduct world-renowned immune response research in the WSU labs in search of an Ebola virus vaccine.



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Miracles Happen

WSU graduate, Jeanne Abbott '98, gets new lease on life following discovery of life-long misdiagnosis.



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A Legacy of Leadership

It's more than just a game. The influence of WSU coaches and staff lasts a lifetime.



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Homecoming 2015 Schedule of Events

Shine Bright Like a Warrior! Come home to WSU for Homecoming 2015!

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Currents

The Winona State University Magazine

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News & Highlights

Editor's Note

Autumn is such a fabulous time of year! The students return to campus with abounding energy and a desire to dive right into a new semester of learning and adventure, and Homecoming '15 will play center stage! The folks in Alumni Relations have outdone themselves, planning events, get-togethers, celebrations, and entertainment for returning alumni, alumnae, students, and friends of the university. Take a look at the schedule of events within, and send in your registration. You'll **"Shine Bright Like A Warrior"** when you come home to WSU for Homecoming '15!

Improving our world. It's what we do at WSU. Each and every day, students, alumnae and alumni, faculty, staff...are having a positive impact on our communities and beyond.

In this issue of *Currents*, you'll read about the great achievements of faculty and staff. Learn how one WSU professor and his students are leading the research in the quest for an Ebola virus vaccine. Discover how the new WSU Indoor Climbing Center serves more than just a recreational purpose — it's therapeutic and capable of transforming lives. And get to know an incredible young woman who knows a little something about real-life miracles.

It's all inside, so read on!

Mary A. Malloy, Editor



WSU Pedestrian Tunnels Under Way

Incoming and returning WSU students will no longer need to negotiate a safe route across the railroad tracks that parallel the campus. Rather, they will walk under the tracks.

The WSU Pedestrian Tunnel project is a joint venture between WSU, CP Rail and Minnesota Department of Transportation, and has been under development since 2008.

The tunnels project broke ground last May and is being completed in several phases. Two pedestrian railway underpasses, one at Winona Street between the new residence halls, Kirkland-Haake, and one at Johnson

Street near the entrance to Warrior Stadium, will improve pedestrian safety near the railroad tracks.

Kraemer North America, contracted by Canadian Pacific Railway, installed box culverts under the tracks. WSU is working with a general contractor to complete the construction of the approaches, ramps and stairs at each tunnel entrance, along with landscaping and site security improvements extending along the tracks to create a safe environment.

To view an animated concept video of the Pedestrian Tunnels project, visit: winona.edu/facilities/Pedestrian-Tunnels.asp.

Share the Knowledge!

Each year more than 50 alumni and alumnae return to campus to speak and present to students in the classroom. Interested in learning more about Alumni College and upcoming opportunities? Please contact alumnispeakers@winona.edu.



McDowell Selected as VP for Enrollment Management and Student Life

Dr. Denise Lloyd McDowell, newly appointed Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Life, will lead enrollment management at WSU, addressing recruitment and retention, as well as access and opportunity for underserved populations. She will also direct student life services, including housing, student conduct, and student wellness.

Dr. McDowell recently served as Dean of Enrollment Management and Registrar at Kansas City Kansas Community College. Prior to this appointment, she was Director of the Student Support

Services Program and Head Counselor of the Education Opportunity Center at MCC-Penn Valley Community College. Additionally, Dr. McDowell served as an Assistant Director/Program Counselor with Emporia State University. She holds a doctorate in education from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in counseling from University of Central Missouri, and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Lincoln University.



**Dr. Denise
Lloyd McDowell**

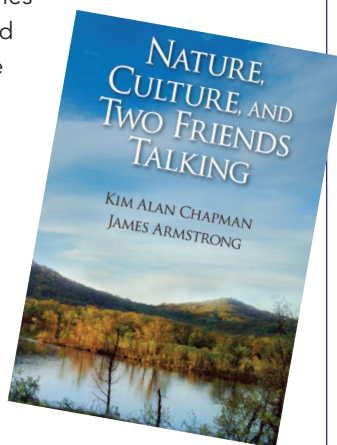
Nature, Culture, and Two Friends Talking

This book is in part the story of a friendship of over thirty years, centering on love of nature and two men's quest to understand how to save what they love.

Kim Alan Chapman has been working in conservation biology for over thirty years; he is currently a consulting ecologist with Applied Ecological Services. He has worked on hundreds of projects in the Midwest that try to find the balance between conservation and development. He is the co-author and editor of *Valley of Grass* (North Star Press).

James Armstrong has been writing about nature and culture for thirty years.

He is the author of two books of poetry, *Monument in a Summer Hat* (New Issues Press) and *Blue Lash* (Milkweed Press). He teaches poetry, film, and literature of the environment in the English Department at Winona State University.



WSU Receives Sustainability Award

Winona State University was selected to receive the 2015 Leadership in Sustainability- Education Award from Sustain Winona.

The award recognizes Winona State for its campus sustainability efforts and its long-term work on recycling and waste reduction.

WSU was one of the first signatories of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in 2007. Since then, the university has engaged in significant study and

celebration of sustainability through its academic offerings, community events and residential living options, and has participated annually in the nationwide Recyclemania competition.

Sustain Winona is a partnership of Winona's seven largest institutions that have worked collaboratively on sustainability initiatives since 2005. The partnership's mission is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the promotion of energy conservation, low-carbon energy technologies and pollution-prevention strategies.



Warrior Waddle Raises \$90K for Scholarships

Over the past seven years, the Warrior Waddle 5K has raised \$90,000 for WSU Women's Track and Field Scholarships.

Last year's Waddle raised \$13,810 in scholarship money, and supported seven WSU Women's Track and Field student athletes.

Want to participate? The eighth annual Warrior Waddle will be held Saturday, Sept. 26, during WSU Homecoming. Register online at winona.edu/alumni/.

Engaged Partnership Steward Award

Winona State University presented this year's President's Engaged Partnership Steward Award to the Nursing Department- Rochester Campus, Aurea Osgood, Nancy Dumke, and Carol Long. The President's Civic Engagement Awards are given each year to celebrate and acknowledge individuals who have demonstrated a practice of civic engagement and commitment to student learning and scholarship; embracing our mission to be a community of learners dedicated to improving our world. Osgood is an Associate Professor in Sociology and the Interim Director of Child Advocacy Studies and serves as a board member for the Winona State University Alumni Society. Dumke is the Assistant Director for Access Services for Students with Disabilities. Long is the Chairperson and special education professor.

News & Highlights

Navy Recognizes Hatfield

Winona State University Professor Emerita Susan Rickey Hatfield received the Department of the Navy's Superior Public Service Award May 21 at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

The award recognizes Hatfield's performance while serving as a member of The Marine Corps University's Board of Visitors from November 2001 to May 21, 2015.

The award is the second highest honorary award that the U.S. Navy can bestow on a civilian. It recognizes civilians who have provided exceptional services that have made a significant and positive impact on the Department of the Navy.

Hatfield retired in May 2015 after 34 years as a professor of communication studies at WSU. She also served as the university's assessment coordinator for 13 years. Hatfield is currently a Senior Scholar with the Higher Learning Commission projects on Assessment and Persistence & Completion.



L to R: Tim Hatfield; Brigadier General Helen Pratt, President of the Marine Corps University; Susan Hatfield

Extensometer Strengthens Student Experience, Industry Connection

Winona State University Composite Materials Engineering program students are getting valuable hands-on experience as they prepare to enter the industry.

WSU was awarded a new piece of equipment, a biaxial strain gauge extensometer, through the Leveraged Equipment Program. The program is a partnership between the state and employers to fund equipment for academic instruction in areas of high employer need. In WSU's case, Winona's own RTP Company provided the match to acquire the extensometer.

Karl Hoppe, a composite material engineer with RTP and a 1998 WSU alumnus, said the equipment provides valuable data for his company as well as critical experience for the students.

"It allows us to provide excellent data for our customers to design parts," Hoppe said. "It gives students exposure to these companies through interaction and report writing, and helps them understand how the tests and data are used when designing parts."

The extensometer provides measurements, ratios and graphs of a composite material as it is stretched, flexed or compressed to the breaking point. A standard extensometer tells only how much the length has changed in one direction, but a biaxial extensometer evaluates changes in length and width. By measuring how much deformation can happen in both directions, materials can be designed to withstand various forces



Photo by Brad Farrell '13

and stresses, and obtain, for example, zero change in dimensions in high-precision applications. An example of the use of high-precision applications include satellites and space telescopes. In space, extreme temperature changes can cause stretching and shrinking, and knowing the limits of composite materials can mean the difference between a clear image and a fuzzy image.

The extensometer also helps WSU's composite materials students tremendously when it comes to building the skills they need to be successful in the composites industry.

"It's not so much experience with the machine is so valuable, but experience with the data it provides that is critical," Hoppe said. "They will have to work with the data they are testing, and in a company like RTP, understanding how the data is used is incredibly valuable, as well as knowing the good, the bad and the pitfalls of the data."

The extensometer resides in the middle of a large warehouse-like room in WSU's Stark Hall. Various materials of all types and sizes wait in queue around the room to be broken for the benefit of science and engineering.

New Data Science Program

Nicole Cullinan '16

Winona State University is addressing a growing demand for data scientists with a new academic program.

"Data is everywhere and training young professionals on the methods to extract information from data is becoming increasingly important," said Chris Malone, professor of statistics and data science. "Winona State is leading the way in creating this new Data Science program. I believe ours is the first undergraduate data science program in the upper Midwest."



Chris Malone

According to Malone, WSU has been a leader in the development of undergraduate statistics curriculum for over 20 years. The department's strong programmatic background and faculty

depth will help ensure the success of WSU's new data science program, said Malone.

The Data Science program focuses on the skills necessary to turn data into knowledge. It also reflects a collaboration between academic and industry partners.

"In the early stages of our program development, we conducted interviews with industry representatives from companies like Fastenal, Mayo Clinic, Target Corporation and Medtronic," said Malone. "The demand for data scientists continues to outpace most other occupations, and we felt it was important that our students attain the skills businesses are most looking for in potential employees."

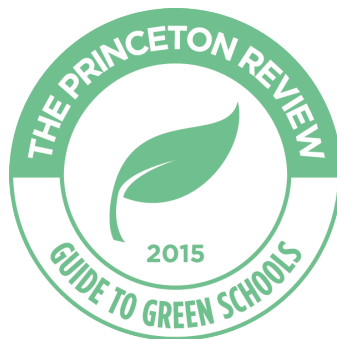
The Data Science program features a major and minor and is offered through the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

Green is the new Purple!

Winona State University has been recognized as one of the country's most environmentally responsible colleges in the 2015 edition of "The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges."

WSU is committed to building and supporting a sustainable society and demonstrates sustainability through many platforms such as: campus infrastructure, course and program offerings, student housing, the Sustainability House, participation in the annual nationwide "Recyclemania" competition, and the Purple Bike program and annual Bike Week celebration.

This is the sixth consecutive year WSU has been recognized as a "green" college. Of the 353 colleges named to the list, only seven are in Minnesota. WSU is the only member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system to receive this designation.



"The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges" was created in partnership with the U.S. Green Council. For the 2015 edition, 2,000 schools were invited to take a survey covering three key factors: healthy and sustainable quality of life for students, student preparation for an increasingly green economy, and environmentally responsible school policies. The 353 schools included in the guide were determined to have the highest green rankings and to enhance students' academic experience and quality of life in significant ways.



Schoh Named Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year

Winona State Athletics Director Eric Schoh has been named a 2014-15 Under Armour AD of the Year by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA).



Eric Schoh

Schoh is one of four NCAA Division II athletic directors to earn the honor and among 28 throughout various divisions of collegiate athletics. The award spans seven divisions (NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/ Other Four-Year Institutions and Junior College/Community Colleges).

Under Schoh's direction, WSU teams have advanced to NCAA postseason play 10 times. In 2014-15, the Warriors recorded 26 NSIC All-Conference performers, accumulated 16 NSIC/ WIAC Players of the Week awards and crowned 11 All-Americans along with 15 All-Region honorees.

Off the field, Winona State student-athletes have continued to excel in the classroom, recording a department-record GPA of 3.30 in both the Spring 2013 and Spring 2014 semesters. In 2014-15, the Warriors had five Academic All-Americans and celebrated 217 WSU scholar-athletes. WSU student athletes also documented 1,873 hours of community service.

News & Highlights

O'Grady Joins WSU International Programs and Services

Winona State University named Dr. Carolyn O'Grady Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs in the Department of International Programs and Services.



Dr. Carolyn O'Grady

Dr. O'Grady will be responsible for leading all programs and services related to international education, including International Student Services, faculty and student exchange, international and domestic travel study, the English Language Center, and study education abroad.

Dr. O'Grady previously served as Professor of Education and Director of the Center for International and Cultural Education at Gustavus Adolphus College. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. She also holds a Master of Arts from Columbia University Teacher's College, New York City, and an Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, School of Education, Division of Cultural Diversity & Curriculum Reform.

DeFor Appointed HealthForce Minnesota Executive Director

Valerie DeFor was appointed executive director of the WSU Center of Excellence-HealthForce Minnesota.

DeFor has served as interim executive director since August 2013, during which time she led HealthForce Minnesota in developing a mental health workforce plan for the State of Minnesota, expanded Scrubs Camp offerings, and collaborated on numerous healthcare workforce initiatives.

Previous to this appointment, DeFor worked statewide with healthcare providers, state agencies and higher education partners, leading a variety of initiatives for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. She earned her bachelor's degree in exercise

science from St. Olaf College and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Arizona State University.



Valerie DeFor

HealthForce Minnesota is the healthcare Center of Excellence within the MnSCU system. HealthForce Minnesota is a collaborative partnership of education, industry and community that was created to increase the number and expand the diversity of healthcare workers; to integrate health science education, practice and research; and to build capacity for education and industry to collaborate to enhance patient care. WSU has hosted HealthForce Minnesota since it was established in October 2005.

Gangeness Named WSU Rochester Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Jeanine E. Gangeness was appointed to the position of Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, serving as the chief academic and operations administrator responsible for managing the WSU-Rochester campus.

She will work with deans, faculty, and staff to create sustainable and collaborative programming at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and work closely with the Winona campus to

connect student services programs.

Gangeness previously served as the Founding Dean of the Bemidji State University School of Nursing. She graduated from the University of North Dakota and holds a Master of Science and Ph.D. in nursing.



Dr. Jeanine E. Gangeness

Hines Receives Civic Award

Winona State University Director of Inclusion and Diversity Alex Hines has received the Minnesota Campus Compact Presidents' Civic Engagement Steward Award.

This award is for a member of the faculty, administration or staff that has significantly advanced their campus'

distinctive civic mission by forming strong partnerships, supporting others' civic engagement, and working to institutionalize a culture and practice of engagement.

As the Director of the Office of Inclusion and Diversity, Hines has worked to advance the campus' civic mission. He

has supervised and mentored students, successfully recruited underrepresented students, brought innovative workshops and speakers to campus, consulted with faculty to add curricular components to diversity programming, and worked closely with community partners. His office also provides civic resources for both campus and community.

EBOLA

Demystifying Disease, Building Immunity



Dr. Osvaldo Martinez, Assistant Professor of Biology

Ebola virus. Just the mention of the word can make one's blood run cold. It is a frightening, rare, deadly disease that recently ravaged multiple countries in West Africa and eventually reached the U.S through cross-continental travel. And here in Winona, one WSU faculty member is working with students to develop new, more efficient vaccines to fight the virus.

Ebola virus first emerged in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa. The 2014 Ebola epidemic was the largest in history, with more than 10,000 people infected, over 5,000 deaths, and likely many more going unreported.

Ebola virus is caused by infection that is spread through direct contact with an actively infected person. Researchers reported in the *Journal of Science* that the most recent West African variant can be traced genetically to a single introduction, a person infected by a fruit bat. The virus mortality rate nears 90% without treatment.

Several Ebola vaccines have been trialed, but there is no FDA-approved medication or vaccine available in the U.S. Winona State University Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Osvaldo Martinez hopes to change that.

Martinez's ongoing research, for which he has received a WSU Foundation Special Projects Grant two years in a row, focuses on the Ebola virus as an emerging pathogen. He believes that by understanding how the Ebola virus targets human immune system cells, scientists can develop better vaccines—not just against the Ebola virus, but other potential pathogens as well.

Originally from Mexico City, Martinez earned his undergraduate degree and Master of Science from McGill University in Montreal, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Chicago, with a

concentration in Microbiology and Immunology.

"Emerging viruses have always been something I was interested in," said Martinez, whose doctoral thesis focused on the deregulation of immune cells in the development of an autoimmune disorder called Grave's Disease.

Prior to accepting a position at WSU two years ago, Martinez worked at Mount Sinai School of Medicine under renowned virus researcher Dr. Christopher Basler. Martinez, using his background in immunology, worked on understanding the mechanisms by which the Ebola virus interacts and deregulates immune cells. After working alongside Basler for several years, Martinez was ready to strike out on his own, determined to further his research.

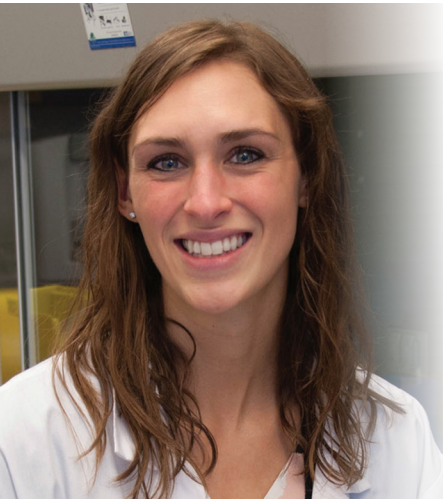
"What I brought to the WSU table was an understanding of host pathogen regulation and interactions, and antigen presenting cells," Martinez explained. "Immune cells, such as antigen-presenting cells, act as sentinels in the body. They search out potential pathogens. Their goal is to identify danger and initiate an immune response to eventually eliminate the pathogen."

Both infections and vaccinations stimulate the initiation of an immune response. In other words, the very same immune cells important for the development of a strong protective immune response against an infecting pathogen are also responsible for the development of a strong protective vaccine response. One reason the Ebola virus is so deadly is that it targets and

Ebola: Continued on page 10

Ebola: Continued from page 9

deregulates the functions of immune cells and blocks their ability to initiate a proper protective immune response. Martinez's research seeks to understand more about how the Ebola virus targets the body's immune cells. Armed with this knowledge, he can focus on ways to enhance vaccines and develop new, more efficient vaccines that also directly target immune cells, but in this case to help initiate a strong protective immune response.



Laura Zeamer

morphologically similar to the parental virus but do not replicate and are therefore safe to work with and even use as vaccines.

Due to the virulent, extremely dangerous nature of Ebola virus, a highly specialized lab is required to grow and study live Ebola virus. To perform experiments with the live Ebola virus, Martinez collaborates with researchers at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) in Frederick, Md. Here in his lab at WSU, Martinez works with virus-like particles (VLPs), which are biochemically and

The Student Factor

"With the help of the WSU Foundation grant, I recruited WSU students, Laura Zeamer, Ashton Krogman, Peng Yin, and Cody Plaisance to specifically work on the development of an enhanced VLP vaccine," Martinez continued. "Zeamer worked with me for three semesters and presented the progress of the project to the University and WSU Foundation, as well as to the Minnesota State Legislature in St. Paul. The long-term goals are to publish the study with undergraduate authors, apply for external funding and to test the ensuing virus-like particles (VLPs) vaccine candidate in vivo using models," said Martinez. "We aim to develop novel virus-like, adaptable particle vaccines."

The goal is to understand the cell response in order to develop new, more efficient vaccines. By enhancing vaccines and making them more efficient, a smaller amount of the vaccine is required per treatment, leading to a more cost-effective treatment.

"Undergraduates are truly engaged and excited to be working on this enhanced vaccine project," Martinez stated. "Our department and the university believe it is important that students experience hands-on meaningful research."

Zeamer, a biology major, came to Winona because of the strong science program. The Jackson, Wis., native had her mind set on a degree in the medical field and was introduced to Martinez when she was looking for a Capstone project to complete her studies.

"I didn't know what to expect, working with Dr. Martinez, but it (his vaccine research) sounded so cool," Zeamer said. "To know what actually goes into developing a vaccine is fascinating. We were creating cells, splitting them... He let us do the research but was always available when we had questions. He is passionate about his work and very knowledgeable, and was so good at breaking it down and explaining it all to us."

The hands-on experience Zeamer and the other students received was priceless. "Dr. Martinez was such a wonderful influence on us," commented Zeamer. "He is doing amazing things and to think that I had a little part in this – it was so fascinating." After graduating with honors May 8, Zeamer almost immediately began a Physician's Assistant graduate program, which she plans to complete in one year. Her lab experiences with Martinez's research project are certain to be an asset to her future endeavors.

Martinez plans to recruit new scientific researchers to support his work at WSU. "We feel that with a few more key experiments required to solidify the merits of this project, I will be able to secure their cooperation in pushing this project forward," he said. "And the data may soon be strong enough to apply for external funding from the federal government (the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health), due to its possible medical application."

The research arena is a complicated one, requiring ongoing funding sources, government compliance, dedication, determination, and tenacity. Research also carries with it a high liability, which makes progress expensive. To secure funders (aka pharmaceutical companies and capital investors) to respond to a project and support research, the end result must prove profitable.

WSU Foundation funds will be used to bring the Martinez research project to the "next" level, at which time Martinez can present his project results to his partner in the Army, and collaborators from Mount Sinai.

"The data has to be tested and the results repeated again and again in order to see if it actually works efficiently and effectively," Martinez explained. "The goal is to present the data to other collaborators, eventually reaching the clinical trial stage to measure efficacy."

Thus far, the preliminary data indicates that the process works on cells better than previous versions of the (Ebola) vaccine. "Successful publications and grants will further expose the merits of the university and the good work the WSU Foundation funds," commented Martinez. "But further, and perhaps more importantly, it will expose undergraduates to all the possibilities of pursuing higher learning and will further make them appreciate their time at WSU."



Miracles HAPPEN!

Photo submitted by Jean Abbott

Just ask Jean Abbott.

Jean (Sharon) Abbot graduated from Winona State University in 1998, but only recently took her first walk across campus.

During her years as an undergraduate, Jean believed going to classes and attending college on her own was a dream come true. But little did she know...

Jean was diagnosed at a very young age with Spastic Diplegia, a form of Cerebral Palsy (CP) that disrupts the brain's ability to control balance and body movement. She doctored with the leading CP neurologists in the country and was treated at the very best CP hospitals, with complete consensus on the diagnosis.

"I was a positive, optimistic, happy-go-lucky girl who just happened to be trapped in her own body," said Jean. "I wasn't able to dribble a ball down the basketball court, run around the school playground, hold a pencil with ease to complete daily homework, or even use the restroom without a challenge."

Today, Jean is a mother of three and able to walk, hike, drive a car, and do so many of the ordinary things in life that weren't even remotely possible in the past; activities that most take for granted on a daily basis. How is this possible for a person with



Jean Abbott

Spastic Diplegia? Jean swallows a little pill – one might argue, a magical pill.

But there were 33 years of "not able to" before the miracle came to light.

As Jean grew into adulthood, the idea of going to college, marrying and having a family of her own seemed a bit of a pipe dream, knowing the challenges she faced on a daily basis. But Jean was determined to live life to the fullest, and in the fall of 1994, she found herself enrolled at WSU, pursuing a four-year paralegal degree.

"I looked at several colleges, but WSU was such a beautiful campus"

— Jean Abbott

"My brother and his girlfriend had attended WSU, so I felt comfortable on campus. And two childhood friends also were attending WSU, so I had a built-in support system."

Jean was well aware of the challenges she faced getting to class and keeping up with a college lifestyle. She knew her limitations: she had more energy and was always stronger in the early part of the day, and deteriorated as the day went on. And Jean was aware of the campus' limitations

when it came to students with mobility concerns. Her answer was to use a mobility scooter to get to classes and club activities. But even with a scooter, maneuvering campus for the physically challenged wasn't easy. Jean helped to change that, working with university employees to identify necessary modifications that would make life on campus a little more "user friendly" for students with disabilities.

"Nancy Dumke, now Assistant Director Access Services for Students with Disabilities, was so very, very helpful," said Jean. "WSU wasn't a very handicapped friendly campus back then and Nancy would work with me and various department to get what I needed so I could get where I needed to be. I couldn't have done it without her, and she is still at WSU!"

Despite her mobility challenges, Jean integrated well into college life. She attended classes, made new friends and even met the man of her dreams.

Steve Abbott had come to WSU, an associate's degree already in hand, to study Production and Operations Management. But

what he found himself studying was Jean! The two fell head over heels in love, and Steve proposed to Jean on Garvin Heights. Jean's earlier concerns about marriage and family being a "pipe dream" went flying out the window, and she responded to Steve's proposal with a resounding "YES!"

Jean graduated in the spring of 1998 with a degree in Organizational Communication, finished an internship and went to work for the Social Security Administration as a service representative. Steve graduated the following year and the two were married July 29, 2000.

"I am so incredibly thankful for Steve," Jean began. "He has been so supportive and encouraging. He's been my biggest cheerleader. He's an incredible blessing."

Winona remained a very important place in the Abbott's hearts and minds. Relocating to Macon, Georgia, they thought it fitting when they purchased a house on Sugar Loaf Drive. And when their first born arrived 13 years ago, they named her Winona, which means "first born daughter." Today, Jean and Steve reside in Plymouth, Minn., and have two more children, Sharon, now age 11, and three-year-old, John.

A World Turned Right-Side-Up

Jean hit her lowest point in 2010, suffering from three decades of progressive and debilitating symptoms. "I could barely move my arms or legs due to countless hours of spasms, stiffness and cramping throughout my body," she said of those dark days. Countless doctor visits, medical procedures and unnecessary medications and surgeries brought little relief. Until one day in 2010, when Steve brought her to see a new doctor.

Jean and Steve retold their same scenario yet one more time to this new physician, telling of symptoms that worsened as the day progressed, of needing solid sleep patterns... The doctor listened carefully, and what she revealed next would be a life-changer for the Abbotts. It was Good Friday, 2010.

"The doctor's eyes lit up and she said, 'I think you have Dopa Responsive Dystonia (DRD), and what if I told you that there is a pill you can take to be able to walk from this chair to that one and you won't even have to think about it?'" Jean recalled that amazing moment. "I told her she was crazy! A pill wasn't going to help. So I wasn't even going to fill the prescription! It



Jean and husband, Steve, in October of 2010.

The first day after taking the new medication, Jean felt a little better, but she attributed it to a glass of wine she had the night before and a good night's sleep. By day two — Easter Sunday — she was standing unaided for the first time in over a decade. It was at that very moment that she knew the little pill was working!

Misdiagnosis of Cerebral Palsy and Dopa Responsive Dystonia is not entirely unheard of, as DRD symptoms often mimic more common movement disorders such as CP, but can be reversed or controlled with L-Dopa, which is not the case with CP. (L-Dopa is used to treat Parkinson's disease, also a neuro motor disorder.)

"This just doesn't happen to people," Jean began. "You hear of healthy people losing mobility in an accident, but not people regaining their mobility. It's just so amazing! It doesn't get old! Being able to do things for myself is wonderful. And I'm so grateful that my parents are around to see it."

"Oh, it was very stressful, but the *Today* crew was so incredibly nice and put the whole family at ease," said Jean. "I had to be careful because the stress did make my symptoms worse, but



Photos submitted by Jean Abbott

then I would think how very fortunate I am to be able to share my message on such a high profile platform. I am just so grateful for the experience."

But perhaps even more beautiful than the WSU campus is the fact that Jean harbors no bitterness regarding her misdiagnosis nearly four decades ago.

Follow Jean Abbott's journey: Jeanabbott.com; facebook.com/InspirationalRainyDayFriend; twitter.com/JeanSAbbott.



A Legacy OF LEADERSHIP COMES FULL CIRCLE

From left, Madeo "Moon" Molinari, Robert Gunner, John Martin, Bob Keister, Robert Campbell in a 1964 yearbook photo.

The WSU football program owns a proud history, thanks to former coaches like Bob Keister, Madeo "Moon" Molinari, and John Martin. Their legacies will continue through scholarships built by the people they influenced most.

The **Coach Keister Football Scholarship**, **Molinari Scholarship Fund**, and the **Warrior Football Scholarship** have reached endowment levels over \$100,000, while the **Coach Martin Football Scholarship** is being built by a group of former football and swimming athletes.

In addition, a general athletic scholarship fund honoring former director of athletics Larry Holstad, who played football in the 1960s when Keister was head coach, is also over \$100,000.

Men of Influence

Bob Keister answered his phone one day recently and heard a voice from the past.

It was a man who played football at Winona State more than four decades ago. Keister, a Warrior coach from 1961–75, still gets calls like that from his "kids," and they are all special to him.

"He wanted to thank me," said Keister, a 2015 WSU Athletics Hall of Fame inductee. "You stick with these kids, and every one of these guys, they've all been successful. There are so many wonderful things they've done, and that's exactly why I've been so close to them."

Warriors head football coach Tom Sawyer, who enters his 20th season in 2015, said a strong base of scholarship funding is crucial to his program's success. "We cannot be competitive without it," Sawyer says. "Sometimes (in recruiting players) it comes down to the exact dollar you can offer. We've got to get out front and stay out front when it comes to scholarships. It's something we've been very good at and we need to grow more."



Bob Keister

Leadership: Continued on page 15

Wally Madland is one of the many players who stayed in close touch with Keister after their playing days were over. "He wasn't just a coach, he was part of my life and part of my kids' lives," Madland says. "Now with the scholarship, he'll be a part of Winona State football forever."

Madeo "Moon" Molinari was WSU's head football coach from 1958–70. Keister and Martin were assistants on his staff during most of that period. Keister took over as head coach from 1971–75, while Martin was at WSU for 30 years, including 28 as an assistant football coach — he was head coach in 1986 — and nine as men's swimming coach.



Madeo "Moon" Molinari

Bernie Kennedy played on the WSU football team in the mid-60s, when Keister, Molinari, and Martin were on staff, and remembers it was a time when coaches rarely gave out compliments or pats on the back. "Moon said to me once, 'If you can't get the job done, I'll find someone who will,'" Kennedy recalls.

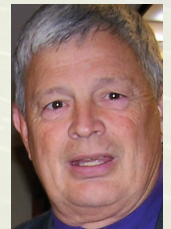
But Molinari also knew how to bring out the best in his players. Kennedy appreciated it, and formed a lifelong relationship with the man everyone called Moon. Molinari died in 2011, having helped the scholarship in his name grow out of his own initial \$5,000 contribution.

Kennedy, who manages fundraising for the Molinari fund, said about 30 former players and their families have contributed. "We wanted it to be a 'common man' scholarship, for a player who is dedicated in school, to his academics, who works hard in practice," Kennedy says.

Merle "Pete" Peterson began fundraising for the Warrior Football Scholarship in 2007, and about 20 people have contributed to help it reach over \$100,000. "I think it's a good start for the scholarship and I know students need all the help they can get," Peterson says. "We wanted to do something for the football team and look at the future and what they might be able to do with it."

Peterson, who played football in the 1950s, said his experience as a WSU athlete and student had a lasting influence for him, and he always wanted to give something back. "I played football in high school, but I was very small, about 5-foot-2, 112 pounds," Peterson says. "I wanted to play more, and after the Korean War I got the GI bill and went out for the team. There were six Korean War vets on the team, and a lot of the younger guys looked up to us. Football really kept me in school, it's done a lot for me. I'm very appreciative of that."

The Larry Holstad Fund was initiated by Merchants Bank President/Chief Banking Officer Greg Evans. The two have been friends since they met more than 25 years ago in Iowa; Holstad as a high school football coach and Evans as a sports reporter. "It's all about relationships," says Holstad, who served as director of athletics from 1997–2012 and joins Keister in the Hall of Fame 2015 class. "Not only on the field but off the field. I was recruited by Coach Keister in 1964 and that's a long time ago, but he's always been one of my mentors and it's because of how they treated you and the experiences you had."



Larry Holstad



John Martin

The Coach Martin Football Scholarship fund was started recently by three of his former athletes; Dan Schumacher, a football player, and Rick Krueger and Harry Sieben, members of Martin's highly successful swimming program. Martin died in 2014. "Coach Martin was a mentor for me," Schumacher says. "I played football from 1986 to 1990 and we had four head coaches in five years. He was the one constant I had, and he kept me on track and kept things in perspective. It went deeper than just being a coach, he was to some extent a father figure."

Get in the Game

Interested in more information about general athletic scholarships? Contact University Advancement at wsufoundation@winona.edu. Or call 507.457.5020.

Making **HISTORY** as a **FRESHMAN**

Kaitlyn Long describes herself as a perfectionist. That's why she fit right in when she joined the Winona State University women's track and field program as a freshman in 2014.

The Warriors have built a winning tradition in the throwing events, which include weight throw, hammer throw, shot put, and discus, and Long knew she would be expected to work hard.

She may not have been expected to make history, but that's just what she did, winning the 2015 NCAA Division II national title while setting a school record in the weight throw on March 13 in Birmingham, Ala.

"I'm very excited to see what the future has in store," Long said. "Obviously I had a good year but I can get a lot better."

Long's introduction to WSU assistant coach Mike Turgeon's system came in fall workouts, which focused exclusively on the finer details of footwork and no throwing — like a

football team running practice plays without footballs, week after week.

"We trained four hours a day, a lot of footwork, hundreds and hundreds of turns," Long said. "It's very technical, but if you can hit the position at the right time that's when things start going well."

Long, who is from Cottage Grove, Wis., and attended Monona Grove High School, caught on quickly. She was an accomplished prep athlete, finishing in the top-10 in the shot put at the Wisconsin state meet three consecutive years, and was eager to continue developing at WSU.

When Long was finally allowed to unleash throws at the end of fall workouts, she immediately impressed Turgeon and the other Warriors coaches — especially considering that the weight throw, not a high school event, was new to her. The weight is a 20-pound ball, similar to a shot put, on a short chain. Throwers spin before releasing it, and must stay within the designated circle.

Long quickly established herself the NSIC's top weight thrower in the Warriors' first indoor meets and broke the school record of 68 feet,

5¾ inches. Nerves and being the only freshman at the national meet didn't slow her down one bit.

She hit 68-8¾ on her fifth throw, waited anxiously as two of her competitors stepped in for their final throws to try and beat her. When they couldn't do it, she broke down and cried. Turgeon saw her and said, "You know you won, right?" Then she saw teammate Alissa Rausch, a senior and mentor, and started crying again. There were more tears of joy when she finally got to her cell phone and called her parents, Larry and Julie.

"The feeling is indescribable," Long said.

Long, a psychology major who received a partial athletic scholarship, enjoys the demands of life as a student-athlete at WSU. "I love being busy," she said. "Athletes tend to want to be the best, and I want to be the best in school, too."



Rausch won the 2015 NCAA Division II outdoor national championship in the discus in May, giving WSU four individual national titles in throwing events, all coached by Turgeon. The others were Mary Theisen (discus in 2011) and Emily King (weight throw in 2007).



Climbing TO SUCCESS

AN UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

Jennifer Al-Saeed can see a transformation come over her 13-year-old son, Zack, when he is on a climbing wall.

"The first time I took him climbing, he just became very calm and focused," Jennifer says. "It's such a great activity for him."

When the Winona State Indoor Climbing Center at Wabasha Recreation Center opened this spring, Jennifer and her two sons, Zack and Zane, 11, immediately became regulars. The family had been climbing for several years, but had to travel to facilities in Rochester and La Crosse.

Climbing holds special significance for Zack, who is on the autism spectrum. His mom says he's a smart kid who's good in school but sometimes gets distracted, and team sports do not fit his personality. He is now an experienced climber and belayer—the person who controls the rope at the bottom of the wall and ensures the climber's safety.

"We are connecting in a way we've never connected," Jennifer says. "When I'm climbing, he will belay for me. It's a way that I'm involved in his activity."

For many families like Jennifer's, the WSU Climbing Center is more than just a place for fun, learning, or exercise. It is an extension of the community.

"I love the staff because they are so interactive with my kids," Jennifer says. "It's not just rules and teaching, but asking what other activities they're doing, asking them about school. It becomes more of a community."

That is what Eric Barnard, director of the Outdoor Education and Recreation Center, hoped for when he began to develop programs for the Indoor Climbing Center.

The brainchild of Barnard, the 6,000 square-foot Indoor Climbing Center was completed in April 2015. It is one of the largest in the Midwest and features three climbing sections, including a 30-foot modular-style wall, two 14-foot bouldering walls, and two training stations. Barnard and his student staff are all highly trained climbing instructors.

The Climbing Center is a valuable resource for both WSU and the Winona community. Barnard said it is being used by a kids' rock climbing club, area high schools, corporations and families. There is open climbing five days a week.

Barnard continues to plan new programs—date night is one of them—and estimates the facility will have 20,000 users in its first year.

"It's inspiring for me to see the families come in and say, 'This is our family activity,'" Barnard says. "Students really like it, and a lot of them are using climbing as a new mode of activity and wellness, and you see them come here and make a lot of connections. It's been embraced by a lot of people."

The WSU Indoor Climbing Center is located at Wabasha Recreation Center, 351 Lafayette Street. For more information and photos, go to winona.edu/outdoor.

Class Notes

1960s

Jerry Raddatz '63 (Winona) The Winona High School baseball field is being named the Jerry Raddatz Field. Raddatz spent 21 years as a high school teacher and head baseball coach at Winona until 1991. His 330 wins rank him 21st on the all-time list of Minnesota high school baseball coaches. He started scouting players for the Cincinnati Reds in 1991 for 14 years and now scouts players in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Tom Caron '65 (Bradenton, Fla.) was inducted into the Minnesota Wrestling Hall of Fame. Caron wrestled for Winona State from 1961 to 1965. He was consolidation champion at the Iowa/Minnesota AU in 1962, wrestling 191lb class. Caron also took second place in the 191 lb class twice at the conference championships, was high point man on the 1964/1965 team, and also held the team record for pins in dual meets.

Carl Miller '65 (La Crosse, Wis.) was named the 49th James J. Corbett Memorial Award Winner. It is the highest honor one can achieve in collegiate athletics administration. The Corbett Award is



presented annually to the collegiate administrator who "through the years has most typified Corbett's devotion to intercollegiate athletics and worked unceasingly for its betterment."

1970s

Lee Turner '71 (Farwell, Minn.) retired after 43 years in education. He served as an English and speech teacher, and speech and debate coach, winning state championships in Minnesota and Florida. His students in Florida were National Team Champions and garnered three individual National Championships. Turner was named national Coach of the Year in 1978. He

worked as secondary principal at public and private schools in Minnesota, Florida, and Michigan as well, and served fourteen years in the Army Reserve. He fondly remembers his time at WSU and his work with the Wenonah Players, the Winonan (author of "The Bramblebush"), and the speech and debate team.

Catherine (Stock) Golden '75 (St. Charles, Minn.) retired in June 2015 after teaching in the area of special education for the past 40 years. She taught the past 39 years at St. Charles Elementary School.

Elaine (Walske) Graf '75 (La Crescent, Minn.) received the 2014 Nurse Excellence in Lifetime Achievement Award from Gundersen Health Systems.

1980s

Jeanine (Semrad) McShea '80 (Chicago, Ill.) joined the Board of Directors of The Danny Did Foundation, a Chicago nonprofit focused on increased awareness of epilepsy and sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP). McShea is the mother of two adult children with epilepsy and an advocate dedicated to inserting epilepsy into the consciousness of mainstream society. McShea is the Vice President and Managing Broker of Related Realty, one of Chicago's premier residential real estate brokerages.

Elizabeth (Colapietro) Vozzola '84 (West Hartford, Conn.) received the 2015 book award from AERA's (American Educational Research Association) for her publication, "Moral Development." Vozzola also received the CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title award in 2014.

Timothy Cook '88 (Freeport, Ill.) was selected to serve as Malcolm Eaton Enterprise's new executive director. Cook has worked at Malcolm Eaton Enterprise for 25 years, and has been a longtime manager of the agency's sales, manufacturing, and transportation programs.

1990s

Douglas Strandell '91 (Pine Island, Minn.) retired after 34 years of teaching.

Matthew Mohlke '97 (Fountain City, Wis.) is featured in "Mississippi Men," a History Channel reality show. The series follows the lives of various people the show has dubbed the "modern-day Huck Finns" of the U.S., whose livelihoods depend on the river.

Paul Solarz '97 (Arlington Heights, Ill.) received statewide "top teacher" honors. Instead of getting bogged down in content or learning objectives, Solarz turned "whatever it was I was teaching into something enjoyable for the students." Solarz is writing his first book, "Learn like a Pirate," to help other educators create student-led classrooms.

Joel Akason '98 (Lakeville, Minn.) is the Director of Business Investment for the Minneapolis Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership. He was named a "40 Under 40" award recipient by the economic development profession. A five-member selection committee chose the winners from a pool of 157 candidates, based on their exceptional contributions to the economic development industry.

Ariel (Blaha) Bilskey '98 (South Beloit, Ill.) received the President's Award from the Stateline Boys & Girls Clubs (Beloit, Wis. & South Beloit, Ill.) for her exemplary commitment to the Clubs' fundraising efforts. Ariel chaired major fundraisers and managed the organizations overall marketing efforts. She was hired in January as an Instructional Design Manager for Credit Union National Association (CUNA) in Madison, Wis.



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Raphael '99 and Raegan (Isham) '00



Hennemann (Auburn, Ill.) welcomed their son Macalister Douglas July 20, 2014. Raph teaches science for the Pawnee school district. He is the

assistant Jr. High and High School baseball coach and head Boys' basketball coach. Raegan is the development coordinator for Memorial Medical Center Foundation.

2000s

Rhiannon Blawat, '00 (Milwaukee, Wis.) CPA, was recently promoted to Associate Principal at Kahler Slater, an award-winning architecture and experience design firm based in Milwaukee, Madison, and Singapore. Blawat is Kahler Slater's controller and responsible for the firm's cash management. She leads the firm's finance team and oversees projects that support the firm's strategic plan.

Levi Lundak '01 (Rochester, Minn.) was named Director of the Winona Municipal Band. A former resident of Winona and current musician in the band, Lundak brings a wealth of experience to the podium. This year marks Lundak's 22nd season with the Municipal Band, playing trombone or bass trombone, and his first out of the "back row." Lundak currently serves as the assistant principal of Riverside Elementary School in Rochester, Minn.

Benjamin Weaver '01 (Albany, NY) has been promoted to Assistant Vice-Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs at State University of New York at Albany. Weaver joined the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost in 2007 and has over a decade of professional experience in higher education. Dr. Weaver is active in several organizations, principally the Society for College and University Planning, and the National Indian Education Association, the nation's leading advocacy organization for educational equity and excellence for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

Andre Crockett '02 (Rochester, Minn.) founded the Sports Mentorship Academy. The program helps youth find success on

the court and in the classroom, as well as plan for college. Crockett was a "first generation" college graduate and is now a social worker.

Amanda (Kempner) Hardy '03 (Winona) is a music enthusiast, singer, song writer, guitar and piano player, released her first children's music CD, "Trains, Cars & A Trip to Mars," in 2010 in memory of her nephew, and has since released two more albums. Hardy is a member of a local band, Wildflower.

Nick Darnick '04 (Seymour, Wis.) and



wife Amy welcomed their second child, Matthew Scott, Dec. 13, 2014.

Peminda Cabandugama '06 (Brooklyn,



NY) is a Chief Resident in internal medicine at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn, New York. Dr. Cabandugama began an endocrinology fellowship at

University of Missouri Health Care this summer. The university was named a regional top hospital in diabetes and endocrinology by US News and World Report in 2014, and is home to the Cosmopolitan International Diabetes and Endocrinology Center. Dr. Cabandugama earned his Bachelor of Science in cell and molecular biology and allied health with a minor in biochemistry from Winona State, graduating with summa cum laude honors. With his background in genetic research from his stint at the renowned Mayo Clinic, where he conducted research during his undergraduate years at Winona State University, the fellowship is a natural fit.

Miranda Ruzich '07 (Bloomington, Ill.) was promoted to manager of Attend eTrack services with metroConnections in April, 2015. With almost a decade of event and conference management experience, Ruzich brings expertise in trade show management and years of experience in client management to this new role.

Mitch Clingman '08 (Milwaukee, Wis.)



proposed to Kelli Luttig May 9 down by Lake Winona and she said yes! The big day is July 23, 2016, in Milwaukee. Mitch Clingman and

Kelli Luttig

Paul and **Katie (Mareachen) Collins '09**



welcomed Zachary Arthur Collins on April 11, 2015 along with big sister Ellie Leora. Katie is an Elementary Art Teacher in Eagan, Minn.

Brooke (Thiede) Mlsna '09 (Winona) is the Fastenal VP of Marketing.

Jessica (Larsen) Perrine '10 (Ironton, Minn.) is the Communications Coordinator at Central Lakes College, a comprehensive community and technical college with campuses in Brainerd and Staples, Minn. Prior to this position, Perrine was a reporter at the Brainerd Dispatch newspaper, and previously at the La Crosse, (Wis.) Tribune, and the Winona Daily News.

Amy Meyer '11 (La Crosse, Wis.) earned Global Career Development Facilitator credentials through the Center for Credentialing and Education, a subsidiary of the National Board for Certified Counselors. Meyer completed a 120-hour career development facilitation hybrid course through the University of Wisconsin-Madison and demonstrated the required education and related experience. Meyer is currently an Academic and Career Advisor at Winona State University.

Jonathan Nelson '14, and Shelby (Brose) Nelson '12, '14, were married on Sept. 6, 2014. The couple resides in Davenport, Iowa, where Jonathan is a Materials Engineer at John Deere in Moline, Illinois, and Shelby is the Assistant to the President at Scott Community College, Bettendorf, Iowa.

In Memoriam

1930s

Mary (Vanstrom) Sweadner '30

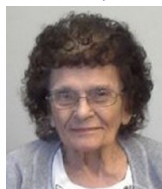
(Lincolnwood, Ill.) passed away Jan. 1, 2015 at the age of 104. Mary graduated from Winona State Teacher's College. She began her career in Winona at Montgomery Ward, and was sent throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas, then promoted to the headquarters in Chicago. Mary was an officer for many years at the First National Bank of Lincolnwood.

Helen (Oistad) Ohlsen '36



(Eugene, Ore.), died Feb. 18, 2015. After earning her teaching degree at Winona State Teacher's College, she taught in Granger, Iowa, and Mantorville, Minn.

Eleanor (Zitzow) Lester '37



(Madison, Wis.) died Feb. 4, 2015. For over 27 years, Eleanor taught elementary education in Madison at Eastside Lutheran and Madison Lutheran School.

Goldie (Fawcett) Schmidt '39 (Appleton, Minn.), passed away Feb. 20, 2015. Goldie received her teaching degree from Winona State Teacher's College. Her first teaching assignment was in Minnesota Lake. Goldie married Ralph C. Schmidt in 1941. Goldie taught school in Appleton and worked for Pioneer Public TV.

1940s

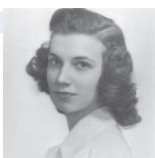
Arthur Drackley '41



(Tracy, Minn.) an honored educator, author and farmer, passed away March 16, 2015. Arthur was recently honored as the oldest-ever inductee to Tracy High School's Wall of Fame for his teaching.

He taught English in the Tracy Public Schools from 1961 until he retired in 1979, and previously taught in public schools in Ceylon, Balaton, Mountain Lake and Tyler. He also farmed south of Tracy for 70 years.

Sonia (Clarke) Schnapp '42



(Minneapolis, Minn.) passed away April 20, 2015. She graduated from Winona State Teacher's College and taught in Badger and Lindstrom,

Minn., until she married in 1946. Sonia also worked at Midland Coop and IDS until her retirement.

Charles Duncanson '43

(Crossville, Tenn.) died March 10, 2015. While at Winona State Teacher's College, he lettered in basketball, football, baseball, and track. In 2000, he was inducted into the Winona State University Athletic Hall of Fame. Charles married fellow WSTC graduate Helen Anderson '43. Charles taught high school industrial arts and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He and his brother-in-law were partners in C&D Café in Spring Grove, Minn. In 1951, he began a 31-year career with Metropolitan Life.

Ethel Mae (Quast) Sellers '45



(Austin, Minn.) passed away Feb. 23, 2015. Ethel Mae received her teaching degree from Winona State Teacher's College. She taught math Dodge Center, Elkton, and Frost, Minn.

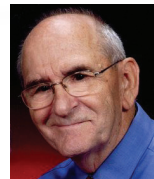
Lois (Johnson) Larson '46

(Harmony, Minn.), passed away March 8, 2015. After receiving a two-year teaching degree from Winona State Teacher's College, she taught in Harmony. Lois taught at Cathedral School and St. Stan's in Winona until her retirement.

Doris Kling '48

(Dow, Ill.) died May 11, 2015 at the age of 101. Doris graduated from Winona Senior High School and earned her teaching degree from Winona State Teacher's College. She taught for nine years before spending the rest of her career with the YWCA, where she served in various capacities in both Minneapolis, Minn. and the Rock Island-Moline, Ill. area, retiring in 1982 as Executive Director.

Leland Larsen '49



(Winona) passed away April 7, 2015. He served in the U.S. Navy in both World War II and the Korean War. He spent his career teaching.

Robert Prigge '49

(Harlingen, Tex.), died April 23, 2015. Bob graduated from Winona State Teacher's College in 1949 with a degree in education. He began his teaching career in Henning, Minn., teaching industrial arts and biology. He was recalled into the Korean War in June 1951. Upon discharge in 1952, the Prigges moved to Newport, Minn., where he taught industrial arts and driver's education. Bob retired in 1984.

1950s

Charles Hanson '50



(Adams, Minn.) passed away March 15, 2015. He earned a degree in education from Winona State Teacher's College and taught social studies at Byron High School and LeRoy High School. He

continued his teaching career at Austin High School from 1958 until his retirement in 1986, where he also served as a baseball coach and football equipment manager.

Violet (Jensen) Riesch '51

(Middleton, Wis.) died Jan. 4, 2015. Violet graduated from Truman High School and Winona State Teacher's College. Violet taught music in the public schools of Alma, Arcadia and Verona, Wis. She worked in the Dane County Aging programs and the West Side Coalition of Older Adults for 25 years as an outreach case manager in rural Dane County. She served a term on the Dane County Board of Health.

Janice (Ostrom) Howser '52



(Plainview, Minn.) died April 27, 2015. She attended Winona State Teacher's College. Janice taught first grade at Plainview Public School for 36 years.

Laurel Benson '57 (Pine Island, Minn.)



died Feb. 20, 2015. Laurel entered the U.S. Navy in 1943, and while in the Navy, attended Valley City Teachers College, University of Dubuque, and Iowa State University. Laurel earned his BS in education from Winona State College and an education specialist degree from the University of Minnesota. He taught mathematics in White Bear Lake, Minn. for nine years before becoming coordinator of media services in Rochester. In 1983, he was presented with a U.S. Fulbright Award to China. Laurel participated in the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2011.

Raymond Dyar '58 (Hillsboro, Ill.) died April 22, 2015. Ray served in the Army and graduated from Vernon County Normal School in Viroqua, Wis. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, and taught at a country school near La Farge, Wis. He also taught in Humbird, Wis., and Winona, Minn. Ray earned a master's in administration from Winona State College and was a principal in Winnebago and Waseca, Minn., as well as Fond du Lac, and Hillsboro, Wis. He finished his teaching career at La Ponte, Texas, at an alternative school.



Joan (Johnson) Smith '58 (Harmony, Minn.) passed away Jan. 24, 2015. She graduated from Winona State College.



Daniel Bonow '59 (Tempe, Ariz.) passed away May 12, 2015. Dan graduated from Winona State College and received his master's degree from Northern Arizona University. He served in the Navy from 1951-1955. Dan worked as a teacher and principal for the Roosevelt School District in Arizona for 36 years, before retiring in 1966 as principal of JFK Elementary.



Raymond "Red" Dorn '58 (Buffalo, Minn.) passed away June 13, 2015. He served in the US Navy during the Korean War. Following his Navy years, Red graduated from Winona State College with a BA in business administration. Beginning in his teen years, Red worked with his father Herb, operating Dorn's IGA Grocery Store in Winona until 1967. Red went on to manage several stores in Wisconsin until his retirement in 1994.

Doris (Bremer) Maxwell '59 (Salida, Colo.) died Dec. 27, 2014.



She received her teaching degree at Winona State College taught first in Minnesota, later moving to Colorado with her husband, Derald Maxwell.

She taught kindergarten and elementary students in various schools, with her last assignment lasting 27 years at West Park Elementary. She retired in 1994.

Darlene (Moeller) Toensing '59 (St. Croix Falls, Wis.) died April 25, 2015. Darlene earned a scholarship to Winona State College, where she met her husband, Norm. They graduated together and were married shortly after. Darlene and Norm began teaching in Spring Valley, Minn. Darlene earned a graduate degree and took post-graduate courses. She taught in Edina, Minn. and St. Croix Falls, Wis.

1960s

Robert Von Sien '61 (Minneapolis, Minn.) died of cancer Jan. 6, 2015.

Robert Houck '62 (St. Paul, Minn.) died Jan. 24, 2015. Bob served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-1956. He earned his undergraduate degree from Winona State College and his master's degree from University of Wisconsin - Stout. Bob was a teacher, counselor and dean of students in the Stillwater, Minn. School District for 32 years.



Michael Porter '62 (New Berlin, Wis.) died Jan. 2, 2015. Mike was a teacher, principal, and coach in the New Berlin School District for 35 years.

John Tourville '63 (Spooner, Wis.) passed away Jan. 11, 2015. John attended the University of Wisconsin - Superior in the R.O.T.C. program, graduating in 1954. He taught school for one year at Mellen, Wis., while waiting for his call to active duty in the Air Force. He served in reserves for an additional eight years then returned to Mellen to teach. He became principal in Galesville-Ettrick, Wis., in 1958. John received his master's degree at Winona State College and accepted the position of elementary principal and later the middle school principal in Spooner.

Carol (Greenwald) Dorchester '64 (Hemet, Calif.) died April 28, 2015. Carol received a teaching degree from Winona State College.

Gerald McCaffrey '64 (Independence, Wis.) passed away May 5, 2015. Gerald graduated with a master's degree in business education from Winona State College and taught business education at Independence High School for over 35 years.

Kenneth "Ted" Kjos '65 (Winona) died March 20, 2015. Ted was in the U.S. Air Force. After his discharge he attended Luther College and graduated with a BA in business administration. He went back to school to get a teaching degree from Winona State College. In 1965 he began a 33-year teaching career in Peterson and St. Charles, Minn. elementary schools.



In Memoriam

Dolores Sande '67 (Rochester, Minn.)



passed away Jan. 10, 2015. Dolores attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and graduated from Winona State College with a degree in elementary education. She began her teaching career at Holmes Elementary School, Rochester, Minn., where she taught third grade for 26 years, retiring in 1993.

Virginia (Dee) Kuisle '68 (Rochester, Minn.)



died March 18, 2015. After graduating from Lourdes High School, Virginia began her 41-year teaching career. She received an emergency World War II teaching certificate after one year and taught in a one-room school, teaching first through eighth grade. She returned to school to obtain her BA in education from Winona State College. After 23 years of teaching, Virginia retired.

Frances (Cheslik) Gillen '69 (Wabasha, Minn.)



passed away Feb. 5, 2015. Fran obtained her master's degree in guidance and counseling from Winona State College and her Ed.D. in counseling, guidance,

and personnel services from the University of South Dakota in 1976. In 1982, Fran obtained her license in clinical psychology. She taught kindergarten, first grade, and Head Start, before moving into secondary education as a guidance counselor.

Raymond Gunderson '69 (Sun City



Center, Fla.) died Dec. 28, 2014. He served in the U.S. Air Force during Vietnam and retired after 37 years as a Middle School Math Teacher for the Miami-Dade Public

School System.

Rebecca (Reinarts) Richer '69 (San Gabriel, Calif.)

passed away June 7, 2015.

She graduated from Winona State College and married LeRoy L. Richer. The Richers moved to North Dakota, where Rebecca completed a master's degree at North Dakota State University. Rebecca then worked for Bell and Howell in Pasadena, Calif., and served as assistant director of budget and finance for the Los Angeles County Office of Education for 22 years.

1970s

Robert Cliver '71 (Pulaski, Wis.)

died Jan. 8, 2015. Bob earned his master's degree from Winona State College. He taught social studies and English in Antigo for seven years before moving to Seymour, Wis., where he taught English and spelling. He retired in 1990 at the age of 55.

Vernon Dorschner '71 (Brainerd, Minn.)

passed away Jan. 13, 2015. Vern received his master's from Winona State College. He first taught junior high, and then taught psychology at Central Lakes College. He retired in 2000.

Grace Fredrickson '72 (Red Wing,



Minn.) died April 13, 2015. Grace earned an MS in education from Winona State College in 1972 and a Certification of Elementary

Administration in 1978.

She taught in Blooming Prairie for two years, before teaching in Rochester from 1962 to 1989.

Edith (Enabnit) Alsbury '73 (Mason City,



Iowa) passed away Jan. 23, 2015. She attended Winona State College to complete her bachelor's degree in English when she was in her 50s.

She served as assistant in the English department at Mason City Junior College for many years.

John Dybvik '73 (Harmony, Minn.)

died April 28, 2015. John attended Winona State College and then joined the army. John returned to Winona State and earned a BA in Education. He taught High School in Oregon, Wis., and returned to his farming roots.

William Lehmkuhl '73 (Fort Dodge, Iowa)

passed away Jan. 4, 2015. Bill graduated from University of Northern Iowa. He moved to Fort Dodge and taught at Fort Dodge Senior High for 40 years before retiring. Bill received his Master's in Education from Winona State College and taught college classes through Buena Vista University.

Jeffrey Evert '74 (Wanamingo, Minn.)



died March 8, 2015.

He earned his BS in social science and physical education from Winona State College. Jeff returned to Winona State to attain his MS in Educational

Administration and his Sixth Year Certificate in Educational Administration. In 1977, Jeff began a 38-year career within the Kenyon-Wanamingo School system as a teacher, coach, principal and superintendent.

Douglas Moen '74 (Caledonia, Minn.)



passed away Feb. 15, 2015. Doug graduated from Winona State College with a BA. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. Doug was employed as an auditor of the Minnesota State

College System, Houston County auditor, and city clerk/treasurer for the City of Hokah. He also owned and operated Elmer's Supper Club in rural Caledonia.

Jerome Dempsey '76 (Red Wing, Minn.)



died May 4, 2015. Jerry earned his specialist degree in administration from Winona State University. He taught history at Hastings High School. Later, he served as assistant principal at Hastings Junior High

School. After he retired from education, Jerry entered politics. He was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1993 and served until 2006. Jerry was the father of **Katie Dempsey '89**.

John Odden '76 (Red Wing, Minn.)



passed away Jan. 1, 2015. John earned his master's and specialist degree from Winona State University. He served as an officer in the Korean War. He taught art and was the principal at the Correctional School for Boys in Red Wing for 37 years.

Debbie (Beyer) Pluim '76 (St. Charles, Minn.) died April 21, 2015. She earned her RN degree from Winona State University, and worked as a paraprofessional at Lewiston, Minn. elementary school.



Bernita (Doebbert) Ness '79 (Buffalo City, Wis.) passed away April 23, 2015. Bernita earned a degree from WSU in 1979. Bernita was employed as both a long-term and short-term substitute teacher at Cochrane-Fountain City schools.

1980s



Dean Emanuel '80 (Minneapolis, Minn.), died May 12, 2015.

Bruce Turner '81 (Port Saint Lucie, Fla.) passed away May 13, 2015. He worked for Target for 33 years.

Carol (Michenfelder) Gunderson '82 (Rochester, Minn.) died May 4, 2015. She majored in English and photo journalism at WSU. Upon graduation, she went to work for Minnesota Public Radio at station KLSE in Rochester. Over the next 12 years, she served as reporter, news director, morning edition anchor, and producer. Carol's last 18 years were spent working on the Mayo Clinic Health Letter as an associate editor.

Carol Jensen '82 & '90 (Winona) passed away May 28, 2015. She graduated from WSU with a bachelor's degree in business, and earned a master's degree in business administration. She was an adjunct



faculty member for Concordia School of Adult Learning, Rochester Community College, and Saint Mary's University. Carol was recognized as a top consultant for the Small Business Development Center in Rochester, and was elected as a delegate in the 1995 White House Conference on small business. During her career, Carol helped hundreds of people start businesses in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

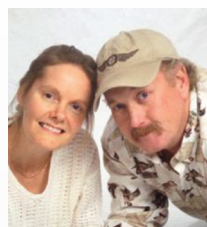
Elsa Wilkie '84 (Spring Valley, Minn.) died March 19, 2015. Elsa graduated from Winona State University and the University of London, England. She taught at Austin Community College, sold real estate, and owned and operated Short Stop Photo. Elsa also served as marketing director, social worker, and a behavioral change counselor at Mayo Clinic.



Mary Bodelson '87 (Red Wing, Minn.) passed away April 3, 2015. She graduated from WSU with a BS in accounting, working for various businesses in Rochester and Lake City, Minn.



Teresa (Skifton) Erickson '87 (Houston, Minn.) died March 10, 2015 at the age of 52. She graduated from Houston High School and studied computer science at La Crosse Technical College. Teresa earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from WSU and a master's degree in servant leadership from Viterbo.



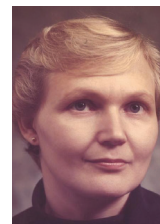
Mary Bremseth '88 (Houston, Minn.) passed away March 8, 2015. She attended Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wis., and WSU, where she earned her teaching degree. Mary worked at the University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, and the Scripps Clinic in San Diego, Calif. She taught 5th grade at Houston Elementary School for one year. Mary then worked at Gundersen Clinic in La Crosse for 20 years.



William Boehme '89 (Buffalo, Minn.) died Jan. 2, 2015. Bill graduated from St. Thomas Academy and attended WSU, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a BS in physics and nuclear science. Bill had a successful career at NSP/Xcel Energy, retiring in 1997.



Jacquelyn (Snow) Ogorman '89 (Bemidji, Minn.) passed away Jan. 15, 2015. Jackie became an LPN and worked at the Red Wing Interstate Clinic for many years. She then earned a BS in Nursing from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a master's degree in nursing from WSU. She worked at the Mankato Clinic, then at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis, and finally at Merit Care Hospital in Bemidji.



1990s

Paul Schmitz '92 (Caledonia, Minn.) died April 12, 2015 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. He earned a degree from WSU in human resources. Paul returned to work alongside his dad at Schmitz Bus Service in Caledonia.



Gerhard "Butch" Hylland '96 (Rochester, Minn.) passed away March 17, 2015. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 18, where he earned two meritorious awards. Butch worked in electronics for 18 years, owning several Sound World locations.



His second career spanned 22 years as the president of Geotek, a composites manufacturing firm. He earned his BS from WSU.

Jennifer (Firl) Kirtz '98 (Rochester, Minn.) died March 31, 2015. Jenni graduated from WSU with a bachelor's degree in composite materials engineering.



In Memoriam

2000s

Shelly (Landsom) Schuldts '00 (Onalaska, Wis.), passed away April 17, 2015. Shelly worked at Barge Chiropractic for and later for Gundersen Health System in La Crosse in the physical therapy department.

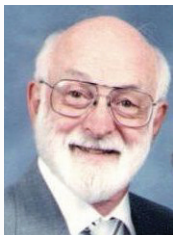


Faculty & Staff

Todd Copeman (Spring Valley, Minn.) passed away April 7, 2015. He attended Rochester Community College. Todd was the ultimate tech-geek who loved to entertain. Always happy, he was known to many as a lighthearted jokester.

He loved the stage and was involved in theater throughout his life. In 2002, he helped found the Appleseed Community Theater in La Crescent, and was the first vice president of the board. At the time of his death, Todd was working as assistant webmaster at WSU.

Thomas Hirsch (Romeoville, Ill.) died Jan. 29, 2015. Tom was a Korean War Veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. He was a Professor of Photography at WSU. After retiring from teaching, Tom started writing a weekly photography column, "Photo Scrapbook," and a weekly word puzzle. He also had photography articles published and published two puzzle books.



Herbert Johnson (Cottonwood, Ariz.) passed away March 16, 2015. Herb began his teaching career in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1956, teaching mathematics at Northeast Junior High School, where he taught for five years. He joined

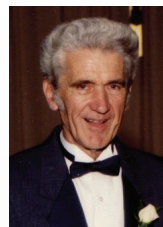
Winona State College in 1966, teaching mathematics until 1993. Herb served as department chairman for ten years.

Karl Mikrut (Winona) died Feb. 7, 2015. Karl graduated from Saint Mary's University in Winona with a degree in Accounting and Business Management, and he also completed graduate studies at Winona State University. He was employed for almost 20 years at WSU, working as an account clerk and Director of Financial Reporting.

Marcella Pomeroy (Winona) passed away April 9, 2015. Marcie was a homemaker until the late 1960s, when she went to work as a clerk. She brushed up on her secretarial skills and then had a long career in that field, first as secretary to the Registrar at Saint Mary's College, followed by many years as secretary to the Academic Dean at Winona State College, from which she retired.



William Saehler (Minnesota City, Minn.) died May 12, 2015. Bill served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He then graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1948. He worked with his father on the family truck farm. After farming, he worked at Armour Fertilizer, Lake Center Industries, and then worked and retired from WSU in the department of maintenance and repair.



H. Giles Schmid (Winona) passed away April 11, 2015. Giles spent the majority of his teaching career at Winona State, teaching business administration courses. He was one of the loudest cheerleaders at sporting events and fancied himself an entertainer.



Philip Bostrack '82 (Winona), died April 2, 2015. He grew up in Whalan, Minn. and attended WSU before joining the U.S. Army, serving from 1970-1972. He received a BS degree in business and marketing from WSU and had a career in the cable television industry. He worked at WSU for over 25 years as an instructional communication technician, retiring in 2013.



Donald Schneider (Winona), a former Winona State University Foundation Board Chairman, died June 9, 2015 of cancer. He graduated from West High School in Waterloo, Iowa and attended Iowa State Teachers College, earned a degree in accounting. He worked various jobs, including Clay Equipment, Sara Lee, Wausau Homes, Green Giant/Pillsbury, and Cytec Fiberite, until his retirement in 2004. Following retirement, Don continued to work as a human resources consultant and officially retired May 15, 2015, from PlastiComp, Inc.



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Each year, Winona State University and the Alumni Society recognize individuals for their outstanding commitment to the university, its mission, and to improving our world.

If you are interested in nominating a deserving individual, please go to the following website for more information. <http://www.winona.edu/alumni/awards.asp> 

-Distinguished Faculty/Staff-

Dr. Ruth Forsythe

Forsythe joined the WSU Department of English in 1980 and retired in June 2015. Forsythe taught both graduate and undergraduate courses throughout her career. She served as Chair of the Department of English from 2002-11. Forsythe was selected as a Fulbright Scholar in 2011-12, working as a teacher and researcher at the University of the Ryukyus in Okinawa, Japan. She taught courses in American popular culture, Asian Studies, and Recent American Immigrant Literature, and conducted research on identity politics and Kumiodori (Okinawan theater). Forsythe served as a visiting professor at Misr University in Cairo Egypt for month-long terms in 2007, 2008, and 2009, and designed a WSU summer program for Misr students in 2007 and 2008. She was Executive Director for the Minnesota State University branch campus in Akita, Japan from 1992-94, WSU Director of Global Studies and Study Abroad Program from 1990-95 and taught high school English in Tokyo, Japan (1974-75), and Forest Lake, Minn., in 1973-74. Forsythe received her bachelor's degree in English education and Asian studies from St. Olaf College in 1973, her master of arts in comparative literature from the University of Minnesota in 1977, and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature/Japanese Language and Literature in 1988 from the U of M as well.

Dr. Tom Grier

Grier came to Winona State University in 1987 after working in professional radio for 12 years. He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in mass communication-advertising and a minor in business administration. Grier earned a master of arts in English language and literature from WSU in 1997 and doctor of education in education policy and administration from the University of Minnesota in 2001. He was hired as WSU Director of University Communication as an undergraduate

and served in that role from 1989-2006, overseeing the university's marketing and communications plan. In 2006, Grier moved to a faculty position as an associate professor of mass communication. He was named WSU Professor of the Year in 2007-08 and 2013-14 and WSU E-Professor of the Year in 2005-06. Grier founded the Navajo Oral History Project in collaboration with Diné College in 2005. The documentary films, focusing on the lives of Navajo elders, are archived in the Smithsonian Institution of the American Indian. He co-authored four books for the Winona State University press and numerous articles for local, regional, and national publications.

Carl Stange

Stange earned his bachelor's degree in communication and theatre arts in 1983 and his master's in counselor education in 2002, both from Winona State University. He has worked in the admissions office for 31 years, currently as Director of Undergraduate Admissions. Previously, Stange was Freshman Admissions Counselor, Interim Transfer Coordinator, Assistant Director/Ambassador advisor, and Certifying Veteran Official. In addition, he has served as IRHC/RHA advisor, Wazoo advisor, Veterans Club advisor, Alumni Float builder, and Chariot Puller. Stange was recognized as SEMSCA Post-Secondary Counselor of the Year for 1996-1997, Student Club Advisor of the Year in 1996, Minnesota Campus Compact President's Civic Engagement Steward Award in 2013, Engaged Faculty Leader Award in 2013, I & D Unsung Champion Award in 2013, and The National Society of Collegiate Scholars Award in 2009 and 2014. Stange is an active supporter of WSU students, attending numerous athletic events, concerts, musicals and theater, diversity programs and leadership activities. "I am very proud of the WSU community," Stange says. "We are making a difference and making a better world every day."



Dr. Ruth Forsythe



Dr. Tom Grier



Carl Stange

-Distinguished Alumni-



Bonnie Clipper

Bonnie Clipper

Clipper graduated from Winona State University in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She went on to earn a master of arts in health and human services administration from Saint Mary's University in 1991, a master of business administration in health care from Lewis University in 1995, and a doctor of nursing practice in executive leadership from Texas Tech University in 2012. Clipper works as an independent consultant, based in Austin, Texas. In 2014, she was selected as one of 20 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellows, a highly-selective three-year leadership development program. Clipper previously served as vice president and chief nursing officer at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colo., chief nurse executive at St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas, and RUSH-Oak Park Hospital in Oak Park, Ill. She received the American Organization of Nurse Executives Mentor award in 2013. Clipper is the author of *The Nurse Manager's Guide to an Intergenerational Workforce* and creator of newnursesuccess.com. She has traveled with her family on medical mission trips to Mexico and taught schoolchildren in Costa Rica.

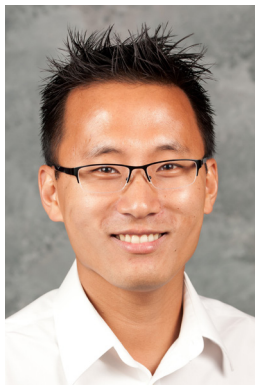


Roger Runningen

Roger Runningen '72

Runningen graduated from Winona State College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in social science and a minor in speech. Runningen, who grew up in Houston, Minn., served as editor of *The Winonan* and was a member of the WSU debate team and student senate. In 1971, he was selected for a three-month internship in the Washington, D.C., office of Rep. Al Quie, which led to a full-time job in Quie's office as a legislative assistant and press secretary from 1973-1978. Runningen then worked as Washington Bureau Chief for a group of newspapers in California and the Midwest from 1979-1991, and press secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1991-1993. From 1994-2014, Runningen worked for Bloomberg News, first as a financial markets and agriculture commodities reporter, and starting in 2003 as White House correspondent responsible for daily coverage of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Runningen was honored by Obama and White House correspondents when he retired on Dec. 1, 2014, and received numerous recognitions and awards for public service reporting.

-Distinguished Young Alumni-



Nicholas Hartlep

Dr. Nicholas Hartlep '06 '08

Hartlep graduated from Winona State University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a minor in Spanish. Hartlep was named to Kappa Delta Pi and Golden Key honor societies, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and was a member of the men's cross country team and student senate. He worked as a substitute teacher in the Winona and Lewiston-Altura school districts before being accepted as a fellow into Winona State's Graduate Induction Program, earning an MA in education in 2008. He then began working in the Milwaukee Public Schools while working toward his Ph.D. in urban education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Hartlep received an Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship and was named an Outstanding Doctoral Student at UW-Milwaukee. Hartlep currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Educational Foundations at Illinois State University, and in 2015 was a University Research Initiative Award Recipient. Hartlep's mother-in-law, Patricia Cichosz, works in the Graduate Office at WSU.

Photo by Tory Putnam



Meghan Stevenson

Meghan Stevenson '04

Stevenson graduated from Winona State University in 2004 with a BA in English writing and communication studies. She served as co-president of Lambda Pi Eta, the communications studies honor society, co-president of BGLAD (bisexual, gay, lesbians, and allies for diversity) club, participated in Mock Trial club, and worked as office manager of the university communications office and at KQAL. Stevenson earned her MS in publishing from Pace University in 2007, which led to an internship at Simon & Schuster. She was promoted to assistant editor in 2008, and that same year developed and published "The Bro Code," a book based on the television show "How I Met Your Mother," that has sold more than 300,000 copies and was a "New York Times" bestselling book. Stevenson worked for Penguin Random House from 2008-2012, editing numerous bestselling authors. She started her own business in 2012, working as an editor, ghostwriter, and collaborator on book projects. Stevenson is an adjunct professor at Pace University in the Master of Science Publishing program, and lives in San Francisco.



-Distinguished Service-

Kathy Hovell

Hovell was named 2015 Winona Steamboat Days Harbormaster. She was selected for her longtime service as a fundraiser and organizer of area recreational road races, including the Goodview Gallop, Winona Firefighter 5K, BK5K, and many others. Hovell and Tom Slaggie started the WSU Warrior Waddle 5K race to benefit the Warrior women's track and field team, raising more than \$90,000 for scholarships since 2009. Hovell also is a participant in area road races and has been a fitness instructor at the Winona Family YMCA for 30 years. She was named Outstanding Woman of Land & Home at the Winona Women in Business Recognition Luncheon in 2010. Hovell, originally from Galesville, Wis., is senior branch office administrator at Edward Jones in Winona and previously worked as office administrator for Gate City Agency.

Tom Slaggie

Slaggie grew up in Winona and served as the city's mayor from 1987-1995. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in military engineering. Slaggie served in Vietnam and retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel. He returned to Winona in 1971 and worked as an insurance agent for his family's business, Gate City Agency, retiring as company president. Slaggie is involved in numerous community groups as a volunteer, including the Winona Civic Association, Winona

American Legion, Woodlawn Cemetery Board, Goodview Activity Group, and was 2005 the Winona Steamboat Days Harbormaster. Slaggie has been a longtime organizer and participant in area recreational road races.

Bill Koutsky

Koutsky has been involved with WSU as a student, employee, volunteer, and scholarship benefactor. A Winona native, Koutsky graduated from WSU in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in speech communications. He worked in local radio for more than three decades, as sales and music director at KWNO-AM 1230 and head of marketing and co-owner of KHME-FM 101.1 (Home 101). He won a 1992 Minnesota Broadcasting Award as one of the state's top radio personalities. Koutsky worked in the WSU Facilities Department from 2001-2013, mainly in the Performing Arts Center. He established the Bill and Brother William Koutsky Music Scholarship and the Bill and Brother William Koutsky Theatre and Dance Scholarship and is a trustee for the Floretta May Murray Scholarship. Koutsky serves on the Warrior Club Board of Directors, WSU Retiree Center Scholarship Committee and Living History Projects Committee. In addition, Koutsky volunteers for many community groups, including Steamboat Days, Meals on Wheels, Semcac senior dining, Clown Club, Jaycees, Elks, Eagles, and Winona Civic Association.



Kathy Hovell



Tom Slaggie



Bill Koutsky

-Hall of Fame-

The WSU Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes those who have shown distinctive and exceptional ability as an athlete and in their lives on campus and post-graduation. Induction ceremonies will be held Sept. 26th. See page 31 for details.

Larry Holstad '67 led the WSU athletics program as it grew into a NCAA Division II national power during his tenure as Director of Athletics from 1997-2012. Under Holstad, WSU won two NCAA national championships in men's basketball, had two NCAA individual national champions in track and field, finished as national runners-up in men's basketball and baseball, and won five NCAA regional championships, 35 NSIC regular season titles and 27 NSIC tournament championships. Holstad also hired numerous coaches who have served 10 or more years and built conference and national title contenders, including Kyle Pooch (baseball), Greg Jones (softball), Scott Ballard (women's basketball), Mason Rebarchek (track and field), and Beckie Rolbiecki (gymnastics), and former basketball coach, Mike Leaf.

Lavonne Fiereck is considered a pioneer for women's athletics at Winona State, serving as WSU's Director of Women's Athletics from 1978 to 1984 while coaching for more than 20 years in three different sports. As head coach of the volleyball program from 1971-1991, Fiereck earned more than 300 victories and received NAIA District 13 Coach of the Year honors in 1990 and Northern Sun Conference Coach of the Year in 1991. She helped guide 18 athletes to NSC All-Conference accolades, as well as 14 to the NAIA District 13 All-Region list. Fiereck also served as the women's tennis coach from 1969-1979, helping guide the No. 1 doubles team to back-to-back AIAW National Championships. Fiereck was a key figure in starting the women's gymnastics program in 1969. She served as President of the MAIAW in 1979 and 1980 and received the Minnesota Breaking Barriers Award for Women's and Girls' Sports in 2000.

Christine (Pekelsma) Hanchin '87 was a top performer on two of the most successful gymnastics teams in WSU history. Hanchin was a member of the 1985 and 1987 NAIA National Championship teams and earned NAIA All-American honors on the uneven bars in three consecutive seasons from 1985-1987, while also receiving NAIA All-American honors in the vault in 1987. Hanchin also was a top scholar-athlete, receiving Academic All-American honorable mention accolades in 1987.

Bob Keister '62 left his mark throughout the WSU athletics program, coaching four sports, including head coaching duties in three. Keister was a fixture on the football coaching staff from 1961-1975, taking over the head coaching duties in 1971, and posting back-to-back winning seasons in 1974 and 1975. He also served as the track and field coach between 1961 and 1990, coached wrestling in 1961 and 1962, and spent time as an assistant basketball coach. Keister is well-respected as a mentor to generations of Warrior athletes, helping guide them in academics and life.

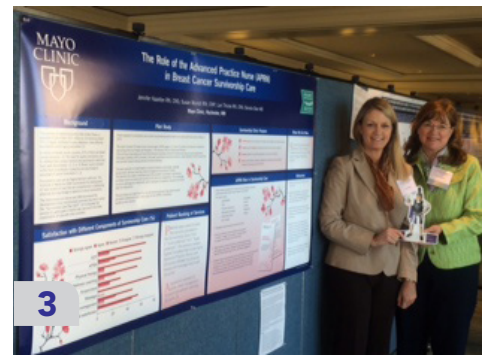
Carson Walch '00, '02 was one of the best all-around athletes in the history of the Warrior football program. Walch was a Harlon Hill Regional Finalist in 2000 and was named a Football Gazette All-American in 1998 and 1999, as well as a USA Football.com All-American in 1999. Walch was one of the most successful special teams performers the program has ever seen, holding the single-season record for punt return yardage with 478, the second-most career punt return yards with 822, and the fourth-most career all-purpose yards with

4,826. Walch was as dynamic as a running back as a return man, rushing for the 10th most yards in program history with 1,759 and scored the eighth-most touchdowns with 31.

Kari (Webers) Harbaugh '03 earned her place as one of WSU's top all-time softball players. Webers was the 2003 NSIC Player of the Year and received all-conference accolades in 2000 and 2002. She received NFCA All-Region Second Team honors in both 2002 and 2003 and was on the



NCAA All-Regional tournament team in 2003. Webers batted .453 in the 2003 season, which stands as a school record. Webers was just as skilled with her glove as she was with her bat, as she is also tied atop the Warrior record book in fielding percentage, recording no errors in 105 chances during the 2002 season. Webers also holds top five spots in the Warrior record book in hits, batting average and at-bats.



1. Michael '93 and Turi '76 Fryer with Wazoo at Hatshepsut's Temple in Luxor, Egypt.



2. Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett '67, '69 on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain.



3. Lori Thicke '88, '97 and Susan Mundt '84, '99 presenting a poster at the 20th Annual Multidisciplinary Symposium on Breast Disease on Amelia Island, Fla. in February 2015.



4. Al MacDonald '07, at left, with **Ann Brown MacDonald '01,** Lary MacDonald, (Tokyo, Japan) **Rich MacDonald,** WSU Music Faculty, Chris MacDonald (New York City), Mary Brown Corby, and Chris Corby (Nashville) on a trip to New Zealand.



6. Troy A. Gourde '02 in Lalibela, Ethiopia visiting the Rock Hewn Church of Bet Giorgis (St. George).



7. Harold (Bud) Davies '69, Brenda Davies '69, and Duane Murray '68.



Download your own Wazoo image file
and view more *Where's Wazoo?* pics:
winona.edu/alumni/featured.asp

SEPTEMBER 24TH-26TH Homecoming 2015

Virtual Homecoming

Virtual Homecoming:
#wsuhoco15

Can't make it home this September?
You can still join us for WSU's Virtual Homecoming and follow the celebration live via Twitter, Snapchat and Instagram.

We're encouraging all returning alumni to post pics and tweets of the sights and experiences of Homecoming using the hashtag **#wsuhoco15**. Follow the hashtag or follow **@WinonaStateU** to see retweeted highlights, video clips and photos from the **#wsuhoco15** stream. And don't forget to join the conversation! Visit: **twitter.com/winonastateu** **instagram.com/winonastateu** or add Winonastateu on Snapchat.

The retweeted highlights will be streamed on the twitter channel **@winonastateu**

Thursday, September 24th

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8-4pm	Alumni College: Professor for a Day	Campus-wide

Friday, September 25th

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8-4pm	Alumni College: Professor for a Day	Campus-wide
Various Times	Cal Fremling Floating Classroom River Tours (several time slots)	Mississippi River Levee Park
12pm	Pep Rally	Main Campus Courtyard
1pm	Class of 1965 50th Reunion and Enduring Flame Society Reunion, Luncheon and Program. \$15 per person. (RSVP and pre-payment required) Members of the class of 1965 and their guest receive a complimentary lunch.	Purple Rooms, Kryzsko Commons
5:30pm	Distinguished Awards President's Reception (by invitation only)	Signatures Summer House
6:00pm	Distinguished Awards Reception and Banquet \$30 per person, cash bar (RSVP and pre-payment required)	Signatures Event Center

SHINE

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LIKE A WARRIOR



WSU Bookstore Hours
Thursday & Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday 9am-5pm
Lower Level Kryzsko Commons

WSU Bookstore's Warrior Zone
Saturday 12pm
Warrior Stadium

*For information or to register,
please use one of the following:*

Online Registration: winona.edu/alumni

Toll Free: 1-800-242-8978 ext. 5027

Email: alumni@winona.edu

WINONA
STATE UNIVERSITY
Alumni & Friends

Saturday, September 26th

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8am	8th Annual Warrior Waddle	East Lake Winona
8:30am	Alumni & Friends Continental Breakfast—complimentary	Alumni House—227 W. 7th St.
10am	Homecoming Parade	Huff Street Route, Alumni Seating at Central Lutheran Church Parking Lot
Various Times	Cal Fremling Floating Classroom River Tours (several time slots)	Mississippi River Levee Park
11am	Math and Stats Reunion/Lunch (no charge)	Alumni Gazebo, Center of Campus
11am	Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet (See page 28 for list of Inductees) \$20 per person (RSVP and pre-payment required)	Talbot Gymnasium in Memorial Hall
Noon-1 pm	First Annual Warriors Reconnect to Connect: Welcoming Back Multicultural and Diverse Alumni	Baldwin Lounge, Kryzsko Commons
Noon-1 pm	Zero Year Reunion	IWC Parking Lot, Alumni Tent
1pm	Pre-game Tailgate \$5 per person (purchased at tailgate)	Parking lot outside Warrior Stadium
2:30pm	Warriors Football vs. St. Cloud State University (Advance tickets available online at: winonastatewarriors.com)	Warrior Stadium
5pm	Class of 1960 Reunion	Green Mill
6pm	Reception for the naming of the Vivian Fusillo Main Stage Theatre	Performing Arts Center

WINONA.EDU/ALUMNI

A Touchstone EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
NOON-1PM, BALDWIN LOUNGE, KRYZSKO COMMONS

First Annual Warriors Reconnect to Connect Event: Welcoming Back Multicultural and Diverse Alumni

- Alums are invited to reconnect with the Inclusion and Diversity Office (formerly the Cultural Diversity Office) and connect with current diverse and multicultural students.
- Come discover the progress made over the last 10 years!
- Learn how you can assist WSU efforts to support diverse students in becoming successful scholars and engaged alumni.
- A gourmet dessert bar and beverages will be served.

Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 5838
Winona, MN 55987

alumni.winona.edu
800.DIAL.WSU



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If you wish to be removed from the Currents mailing list or have an address change, please contact alumni@winona.edu or 1-800-342-5978 ext. 5027.

THE 411: Snowbird University

AN EXPERIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A great way for retirees to enjoy summer in Winona — without the yard work!

Culture, entertainment, educational opportunities, and a plethora of outdoor activities await you at WSU's Snowbird U. Programs designed to get you involved and learning new things.

WSU Learning Club is a collaborative educational partnership between WSU and retirement-age citizens. The Learning Club capitalizes on the strengths and characteristics of retiree learners, offering programs selected, attended, and often led by the membership.

Senior University is a peer-led set of short courses taught by retirees and topic experts to provide intellectual and cultural stimulation and growth, thus providing today's accomplished adult with opportunities for lifelong learning and leadership, combined with the fellowship of peers sharing a common quest for continued growth.



Photo by Tom Grier

"It was a wonderful summer for us. We have been wintering in Arizona for seven years, and this was the first year we did not own a home in Winona. The new-found freedom was great, thanks in no small part to the wonderful living at East Lake."

— Jim Abbott, SnowbirdU participant since 2007

Participants may choose to stay in a 2-bedroom apartment at the University Apartments at East Lake, which offer 100 modern furnished units contained within four buildings. Each apartment is fully furnished and equipped with modern amenities



PLAN NOW TO SPEND THE SUMMER WITH US!

For more information, visit winona.edu/snowbirdu
Email: adurley@winona.edu or call 507.474.3902.